

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract, with the following rewritten abstract:

This invention relates to a filter cloth intended for a filter which has a variable volume and is based on diaphragm extrusion, particularly for a Larox[®]-type vertical pressure filter. The filtering properties of the filter cloth (5) are substantially similar in both directions through the cloth since slurry containing liquid and solids is alternately placed on the different sides of the filter cloth. The filter cloth of the invention comprises a middle layer (15) and protective layers (16a, 16b; 17a, 17b) provided on both outer surfaces of the middle layer. The middle layer can have e.g. a woven structure, and the protective layers may be ~~slub~~ batt fibre layers attached to the middle layer by needling. The protective layers according to the invention are denser than the middle layer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 4 is a simplified cross-sectional view of an application of the filter cloth according to the invention. The filter cloth comprises a middle layer 15 woven of machine-direction warp threads 13 and transverse weft threads 14. Some bonds known per se and suitable threads or thread materials can be used for weaving the middle layer of the cloth. Thus currently used woven filter cloths are well suited for the middle layer, but it could be made of non-woven fabrics, too. The threads typically used for filter cloths are multi-filament threads made of some of the following plastic materials, for example: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropene (PP), polyamide (PA), polyphenylene sulphide (PPS) or polyetheretherketone (PEEK). As is seen in the figure, both sides of the woven middle layer 15 are provided with symmetrical protective layers 16a and 16b which form the outer

surfaces of the filter cloth to be arranged against the slurry to be filtered. Protective layers made separately of the middle layer, such as ~~slub~~ batt fibre layers or layers made of staple fibres e.g. by compression, can be attached to the middle layer e.g. by needling, but other attachment methods known in the field, such as gluing and melting bonds, may also be used, depending on the structure of the protective layers. In the structure illustrated in the figure, the primary purpose of the protective layers is not to affect the density of the filter cloth, but to protect the middle layer. Protective layers which are looser than the middle layer are preferably made of threads or fibres having good wear-resistance using bonds or attachment methods with good wear-resistance. The protective layers receive the strain to which the filter cloth surfaces are subjected during the compression and discharge of the cake and by the doctoring and washing of the filter cloth. The fact that the protective layers, which are clearly looser than the middle layer, wear in use does not substantially affect the filtering ability of the filter cloth. The protective layers can also be made to receive part of the tensile strain directed to the filter cloth, in which case the middle layer can be made of a fabric which is less resistant to tensile strain, provided that this is advantageous to the filtering ability. It should be mentioned that the thickness of the protective layers and that of the middle layer can be adjusted according to the need. Furthermore, the protective layers on both sides of the middle layer of the cloth may consist of more than one layer, provided that they are arranged so that the filtering ability of the filter cloth is independent of the fact on which side of the cloth the material to be filtered is placed. It is advantageous to manufacture a cloth with a symmetric structure where both sides of the middle layer are provided with the same number of similar protective layers. In addition, a multilayer filter has a kind of sandwich structure which provides the filter cloth with better transverse

rigidity, if necessary. It is advantageous to make both the middle layer and the protective layers easily cleanable e.g. by using soil-repellent fibres or fibres treated to be soil-repellent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As mentioned above, the protective layers may consist of ~~slub~~ batt fibre layers which are attached to the middle layer e.g. by needling. The protective layer of the invention can also be provided by attaching a woven layer, porous permeable coating material or an appropriately perforated diaphragm to the outer surface of the middle layer. The materials used in the protective layers include polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene (PE), polyamide (PA) and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). The protective layers can also be attached to the middle layer by welding, e.g. by ultrasonic welding.